Reviewing The New Books

By Mary-Carter Roberts

The Secret History of the War-(Two Volumes) By Waverley Root. (Scribners;

A book which is called a "secret history" usually presents a definite body of facts not previously available to the public. And it usually names the sources from which its author learned those facts. This book does neither. The great part of the material which Waverley Root brings forward as "secret" news concerning the war is simply incidental to the well-reported course of events and will strike the reader as being the sort of background material which every newspaperman accumulates in the course of his work. Nor does Mr. Root, when he launches on such a "secret" report usually tell where he got his information. He commonly names his sources as his "informants" and lets it go at that. Just the same, he has written a

sensational book. His own outspoken interpretations of events and conditions makes it so. The two volumes, which add up

to 1,200 pages, treat of the war up to the assassination of Admiral Darlan and the appointment of Gen. Giraud to take his place as high commissioner of French North Africa. They are not a military history. They are, rather, a history of the conflict between democracy and fascism as it has been fought out on the various fronts. We Have Fascism, Too.

Under the head "The War in Democracy Under Asia," for instance, we find chiefly a discussion of the diplomatic con- Pressure siderations which induced Japan to enter the war. The fall of the Philippines is barely mentioned and the battle of the Solomons is briefly referred to as a "diversion." Taking

Century Fund; \$1.)

Tomorrow's Business it for granted that everybody knows about those events by now. Mr. Root occupies himself with examining the policies of the governments enemy alone. We have it, too, he they are, the left wing and the right

says, and in a serious measure. ernment, most particularly in the of New York. State Department.

The Fate of France.

there, sheltered by the betrayers, it survived to spread its poison into the ranks of the democratic Allies.

The major part of the "Secret History's" Volume I is given of how France was sold out to her enemies, and in Volume II the emphasis is on the part played

nizing Gen. Giraud and the Vichy- the legislative power. tainted Admiral Darlan instead of Then, for a moment, gloom seems

Diplomatic "Fall Guys." utterly out of touch with democracy. word against that. Its staff is made up, he says, of are natural "fall guys" for diploory of appeasement in Stalin. To sense in our own. support these charges Mr. Root quotes facts and documents and if they are not, as his title suggests. exactly "secret," they have not been ily and the church, a sort of private

in quite this way before. The Darlan-Giraud Deal. In describing the Darlan-Giraud deal, Mr. Root builds up a circumstantial case to the effect that the Germans themselves let the general get out of Koenigstein prison and handed him over to collaborationists with the understanding that they were to sell him to the Americans, thus getting their own man with placid justness. Stockholders in and keeping De Gaulle out. Before our forces arrived, he says, Vichymen in numbers shifted their capital to Africa to profit by the ion that the conspirators, including stabilization of the franc which fol- Marshal Petain, had agreed to surlowed the invasion. They tripled render even in advance of hostilities. their fortunes on the transaction, he One cannot read the work without estimates. Our statesmen, he says, feeling, at least at times, that Mr. were suckers for about anything Root has started real game. He is

The section of Volume I which "Backstage with the War," and has treats of France's fall is not so sen- some years' experience as a newspasational. The charge which it makes per reporter in France, Denmark of a Fascist conspiracy involving and Sweden. His only other book, Frenchmen high in the army, in oddly enough, is a work on Richard finance and politics is old stuff by Wagner, and he is a musician and now, but the book goes the full discomposer. He is also a cousin of tance in offering the author's opin-the late Elihu Root.



By Stuart Chase. (Twentieth Century Fund; \$1.) By Beardsley Ruml. (Farrar &

Rinehart; \$2.50.) It may be a matter of surprise to involved, our own included. He arrives at the conclusion that Fascism and Beardsley Ruml standing on the is not a germ which infects the same economic ground, but here

principle."

peacefully folded. Unlike other writers who have Mr. Ruml is conspicuous in the undertaken exposes of the same sort, kind of business known as big. He however, he does not isolate the is treasurer of R. H. Macy & Co, germ in the various groups which he is a member of the research little to say and employes in actualconsciously aim at propagating committee of the Committee for fascistic ideas. His charge is that the plague spot is our own Govman of the Federal Reserve Bank the plague spot is our own

Mr. Chase is in even less need future. of introduction. He has long been His view is that the coming age The great drama of the war, as he sees it, has been around the fate of France. There Fascism caused of France. There Fascism caused of France. There Fascism caused book, moreover, he shoots some livesyment arrows in Mr. Ruml's distribution. He has long been this view is that the coming age will be one in which fresh emphasizes their reality is put on individual freedom—and individual responsibility. His own the betrayal of a major power and irreverent arrows in Mr. Ruml's direction, marked with Mr. Ruml's izens—stockholders, consumers and name. But when the two gentlemen job holders—will have to give up sum up one finds them in sweet their practice of merely resting on

the will of the governing powers and The only catch is that the accord take their share of the power-for seems to be too sweet. It is not set on financial ground but idealistic— will need a moral awakening. Busito get together. The harmony is the people will have to exert the tion from war to peacetime economy, like that which obtains between power. The private government of Richard A. Lester, associate profes-

For the Common Good.

Mr. Chase naturally begins his erned lie down on the job nobody book with an assault. He is a except themselves can be blamed born literary storm trooper. He for the consequences. charges in on three "Big" pressure by Vichy in our own invasion of groups which, he declares, are radical agreeing that it is all our North Africa. The interpretation is threatening our democracy by their fault. It is nice to know so exactly that France, being a major power, selfish lobbying-big business, big where the blame belongs. provided a clearer issue between labor and big agriculture. In one Fascism and democracy than any of those sustained pyrotechnic out- Unleash the Dogs of War other defeated country and that the bursts of which he is so dazzling United States, launching her in- a master he exposes the sins of all vasion of French territory, had the three which, in his view, add up chance-and duty-of making her to an ignoring of the interests of own stand unmistakably plain for the consumer whom all are supposed all the world to see. But by recog- to serve and a cynical misuse of

McBride & Co.; \$2.50.)

Reviewed by RUTH DEAN.

democratic Gen. de Gaulle we to enguil even ins validit opening and he suggests that the only remainds of the captive populations edy is big Government. But he minds of the captive populations comes out radiant from under the everywhere. For this Mr. Root holds cloud and spreads an entrancing President Roosevelt and the State rainbow over the final passages Department responsible and his statement of his stand is couched moral reawakening, he urges. Let us all lay aside our selfish interests and work for the common good. He considers the department Nobody in the world could say a Mr. Ruml is not anywhere near

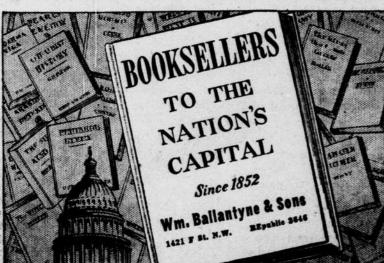
young men with nice manners and as amusing. He just plods along. a fear of people whose manners As he is writing down, trying to experhaps are not quite so nice. They plain business to the non-business reader, he sticks to words of few matic confidence men, in his view. syllables and a sort of primerlike As for the President, the book rates simplicity. For the main part of his course as inexplicable for the his book his title is misleading. He head of a democratic state. He has is not discussing the possible shape sunk so low as to flatter Spain's of business to come, but explaining Franco, observes Mr. Root, and he how business works. He tells us wrote cajoling letters to Vichy's how it works in the basic sense in Petain, he says. He embarrassed any society and then he tells us Churchill and kept alive the mem- how it works in the particular

A Private Government.

Business, he says, is, like the famgathered together and interpreted government. As it exists in our own country today, its control theoretically lies in the hands of stockholders, with the ultimate power vested in the consumer, while theoretically again - employes are free agents who can change their jobs when they do not like their working conditions.

Neither theory, however, is effective in practice. Mr. Ruml observes and consumers really have very

the author of a syndicated column,



Best Sellers in Washington

The Green Years, by A. J. Forever Amber, by Kathleen

Green Dolphin Street, by Elizabeth Goudge Earth and High Heaven, by Gwethalyn Graham. Immortal Wife, by Irving

NONFICTION.

The Time for Decision, by The World of Washington Irving, by Van Wyck Brooks. Guide to the Peace, edited by Sumner Welles.

Story of a Secret State, by Jan Karski. Anything Can Happen, by George and Helen Papashvily.

This list is based on actual sales in local bookstores during the past week and is not to be considered an index of popularity. Books highly in demand are frequently reported "out of stock" due to limited supplies. Records are not kept of verbal requests.

Stieff to write his book—"Unleash the Dogs of War."

The book is just that-it is the story of dogs at war. How it is posexplains how the dogs are intro-duced to their handlers with whom they will become an inseparable part during their stay in the Army. Herein lies the secret of wardog control, for the dog does the work control in the Army. Herein lies the secret of wardog control is a little better. Mr. Paul, who did so well in borrowing his "The Last Time I Saw Paris" title from Jerome Kern and Coscar Hammerstein might improve of attack or administering aid, but needs the orders and the timing song team set it to music that the handler gives him. In many ways the training of GI Fido

Four-Footed Fighters. has written an exciting story of two virtues, but little else to keep a imaginary four-footed fighters, reader from nodding. Murky and Cecil, recruited Much of the book sounds like a from private life, to fight with as travelogue, and one can't help being Baron van der Elst in his introof vivid phrasing which results in (Roy.) A Polish man of letters much bravery and to bring as much a little dublous about the author in duction to this engrossing study many quotable sentences and gives writes the history of the German credit to the Army as the soldiers that score. Undoubtedly Mr. Paul of Flanders five centuries ago con- his book marked readability. He invasion of his country. A tragwith whom they helped rout Gen. knows Paris, and he might know siders the similarity amazing and conveys historic fact and esthetic icaly moving document.

African campaign. have to be a better spirit in the given up for lost, are unforgettable with this volume, one never knows. scenes of the book, etched in a simple descriptive style that strikingly

Workers in the Transition

By Richard A. Lester. (Mc-Graw-Hill: \$1.50.)

Reviewed by HOWARD P. BAILEY. Foreseeing the greatest threat to where it is safe for any opponents ness will have to readjust itself but exist during the period of transilike that which obtains between diplomats when they announce to the world that they are in perfect agreement—in principle.

Richard A. Lester, associate professor of economics of Duke University, has set down in this volume the conclusions he has reached after an exhaustive study of the situation he conclusions he has reached after an exhaustive study of the situation he can be deal at length with all Flemish masters but introduces lesser artists in connection with the leaders. Their sent of the governed, and if the govexhaustive study of the situation he
exhaustive study of the situation he
willing to study formally in the leaders. Their
sent of the governed, and if the govexhaustive study of the situation he
believes must be faced in the months

> So we find the tycoon and the Economic Development and the book planning just what they most want. written with the agreement that the

By Frederick P. Stieff. (Robert A Planned Working Force. Among the marine casualties re- be maintained, that those who have tions and related readings under cently reported was wardog Bunkie saved money for the purchase of each section of works by a particu-—dead from combat exhaustion. articles not available during the lar author. The curious reader will period of war shortages put that democratic Gen. de Gaulle we to engulf even his valiant optimism The little German shepherd who was money to use, that those who have of what he might have in abundance of the celting. almost too small to measure up to lost employment have some income ance for the asking. to tide them over until jobs are obtained, and that business stimu-

late the national morale by launching immediately into repair, alteration and other such types of wardeferred activity to keep as many on the payrolls as possible. He believes that when a plant or business s in the process of conversion employers should, insofar as possible, ecruit a postconversion working force, giving the unemployed they intend to hire an exact date at which employment will start. Going rather fully into the ques-

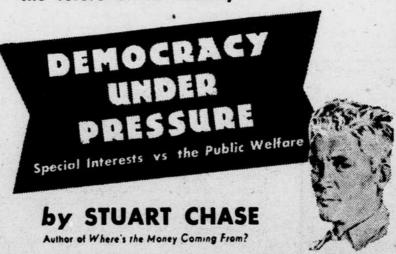
tion of unemployment compensation, Dr. Lester found wide discrepancies in the rate and duration of benefits among the various States and he believes that legislation to set Nation-wide standards is urgent. He suggests a ceiling of not more than \$20 per week to be paid during unemployed periods not to exceed 26 weeks. Realizing that because of the location of war industries, some the physical standards of the war States might exhaust their reserves dog reception and training center at more rapidly than others, he recom-Front Royal, Va., proved himself a mends a Federal subsidy to such

hero on Guam, when his growls put States to tide them over until unthe marines on the alert in time to employment taxes can wipe out the discover a 10-man Jap patrol that deficit.

had sneaked through the lines. The marines did the rest of the work.

The book should prove valuable to marines did the rest of the work. Exploits like this inspired Frederick tional prosperity.

For every American interested in the future of his country



When the wan ends, will peace come? Mr Chase says no-not so long as 100 old pressure groups with their Washington lobbies continue to put their selfish interests above the public interest. Mr. Chase points out legitimate needs for group representation in our democracy, but paints a scaring picture of danger from the unrestrained selfishness of warring special interests. A vivid, timely report for every American to read and ponder as a new Congress convenes



This is the fourth volume in Stuart Chase's series, WHEN THE WAR ENDS.

I'll Hate Myself in the Morning and Summer in December

House; \$2.50.) Reviewed by CHARLES M. EGAN.

This double feature-billed on the jacket as "two complete murder novels in one volume"-will add nothing to the literary reputation which "The Last Time I Saw Paris' achieved for Elliot Paul. As a matter of fact, it's fortunate

that the book sells for \$2.50. Widely circulated at two bits a copy, it might not only ruin Mr. Paul's reputation, but could easily do to mystery stories what something did to vaudeville not so many years ago. "I'll Hate Myself in the Morning,"

as its title might indicate, is the more atrocious. Obviously, Mr. Paul is trying to satirize whodunits, but all he accomplishes is something that is neither fish nor fowl. The veneer of cleverness is too thineven more so than what might be called the plot.-

This is another tale about the doings of Homer Evans, featured earlier in such epics as "The Mysterious Mickey Finn," "Mayhem in B-Flat," "Fracas in the Foothills" and "Hugstory of dogs at war. How it is possible to turn household pets into savage and efficient dogs of war, and cific streamliner just out of Las harder yet, convert them back again, Vegas, and goes on from there after honorable discharge, to peace-ful canine citizens is clearly told. There isn't a natural, interesting character in the whole synthetic Simply, and with a sympathetic business, and any normal reader understanding of dogs, Mr. Stieff will have a hard time figuring out

song team set it to music. The story deals with the Nazis'

is not unlike the "boot" training GI infiltration in Chile in 1938, and Joe is subjected to, for it includes features, along with its spies and obstacle courses, mock enemy at- counterspies, a group of flamenco tacks and drill orders under fire. dancers, including Coralito, a miniature Carmen. Hero of the piece is To make all this clear, Mr. Stieff one Brett Rutledge, who has all the

and Cecil, recruited Much of the book sounds like a on Arnheim's forces in the North Chile. But he can't know much gives reasons for his contention. Mr. Stieff writes of dogs without he puts the finger on a Pullman is Counsellor of the Embassy of Belsentimentalizing Such descriptions porter in "I'll Hate Myself in the gium; he is also an authority and as the dogs' saving of their handlers Morning" and fixes his place of oriafter a convoy ship sinking, attack gin as "East Side Chicago." What country.

Public Library **Book Pointers**

CLASSICS OF THE WESTERN WORLD. Elizabeth S. Duvall,

Information Desk, Washington Public All education does not come from satisfaction are gained from read- half of the volume. Baron van der immediately following the cessation classroom, but with time and incli- 100 half-tone plates, 16 of which nation to read the books they've are in color. These appear to be remarkably faithful reproductions, The survey was made under the missed, need help in selecting and and the majority are full page.

"Classics of the Western World" researcher should have complete is a well-planned bibliography, edfreedom in expressing his opinions ited by members of the faculty of whether or not they coincide with Columbia College, which lists chronologically great books from Homer Dr. Lester finds that it is a first to the 20th century and contains essential that national confidence excellent notes on editions, transla-

This Week's New Books

By Elliot Paul. (Random





In his book about people and painters of Flanders in the 15th century, Baron Joseph van der Elst makes various comparisons. These illustrations, taken from the book, compare the Flemish with American primitives. Left, "Just Judge," by Jan van Eyck, and "George Washington," by Kemmelmeyer.

"Summer in December" is a little The Last Flowering of

By Baron Joseph van der Elst.

Reviewed by FLORENCE S. BERRYMAN.

for most of us to discern. Yet ans' disregard of it. about America's second city when He is a diplomat by profession and

Although presented as an art book, this is a work of larger dimensions. Nearly half of it deals with the history of the freedomloving Flemish people, their social life, rulers, pageantry; with the good black earth in which their democratic civilization had its roots; with the rise of the towns and their industrial prosperity; with the mediaeval guilds, which many of us assume were similar to our presentday labor unions but which had marked differences; with love and the importance of women; and with religion.

Outstanding painters of the

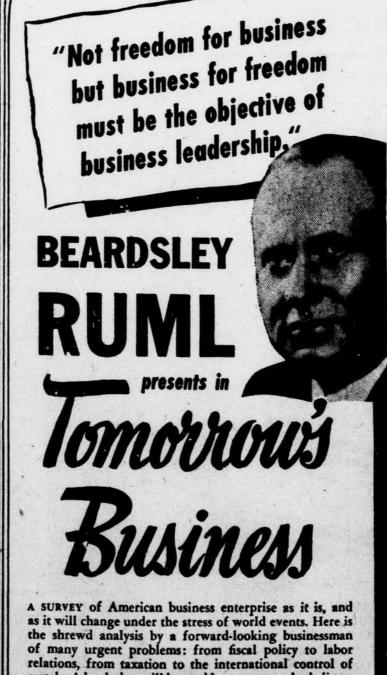
REALISM - plus IDEALISM in International Affairs



ities who are The Postwar World \$2.00

Pursell's Book Store 807 G St. N.W. 542 Est. 1865

FARRAR & RINEHART, N.Y.



cartels. A book that will be read by everyone who believes that a practical, working democracy and security for the individual wage-earner are both possible and necessary under the system of free enterprise.

Just published, \$2.50

Weyden's "Portrait of a Lady," both enjoyment in the text. from the Mellon collection. "A work of art is misjudged," the author says, "unless it is seen on its own terms-not in the terms of other works of art." Consequently,

in a final short chapter on the (Doubleday, Doren & Co., Inc.; Flemish style of painting, he in-Any likeness between our own tance of the commonplace as con- Air Forces. Important. age and the 15th century is difficult trasted with the Renaissance Ital-

They include two of our National criticism in such a way that the Gallery's treasures: Gerard David's layman should be able to learn "Flight into Egypt" and Van der them without losing a sense of real

Brief Reviews

The Air Forces Reader, edited terprets the civilization which pro- by Norman Carlisle. (Bobbs-Merduced it, the people's and artists' rill.) A volume of selected papers attitudes toward a good life, material designed to give the reader a full and spiritual, toward the impor- picture of both the Army and Navy

The Forgotten Battlefield, by K. Wierzynski, translated by Edmund

Can you spare 10 hours to save 30 million lives including your own?

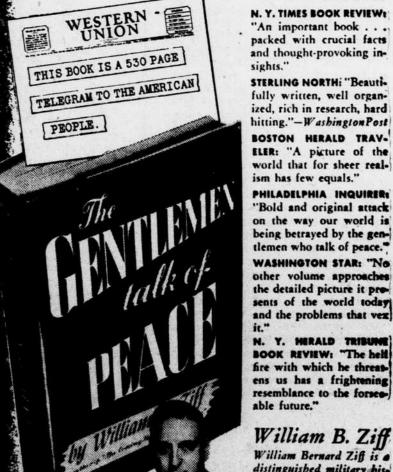
TOU CAN read this book in about ten hours. Can you spare that much time to prevent the death of your son or grandson a few years from today? Have you the time to save thirty million lives, including your own? That is what another world war would cost in lives alone.

This is a big book because it deals with a big subject-but every word in it has the impact and urgency of a telegram. It is an eleventh-hour appeal to sanity and action. You will be shocked and shaken by parts of it. It takes you behind the wall of secrecy which hides the ideas that prompt the actions of the. gentlemen who talk of peace. You will watch, fascinated, as the author reveals the secret and overt hatreds, ideologies, traditions, cultures and ambitions of the warring and victimized nations. And you will begin to see-what has never before been made so clear-where each one of these nations stands at this crucial moment in history . . . and, more important, where each

This is a fighting book about peace. It is a smashing indictment of the international intrigue which is said to be preparing the way for another world war. It was written at white heat. Here are no soft words, no double talk, no moralizing, no twisting of facts to fit a scheme. Here is a brutally honest picture of the forces at work in the world today and a timely warning of the danger they spell for those who must remake

The author's solution to the world's dilemma is drastic and controversial. But the facts he presents cry out for swift and violent action. Those who have read Mr. Ziff's previous bestseller The Coming Battle of Germany know that he writes beautifully, with power and passion . . . documenting his findings with devastating precision. The Gentlemen Talk of Peace is his best and most important book. 530 pages, indexed, \$3.

> A book no one can ignore SAY THE REVIEWERS N. Y. TIMES BOOK REVIEWS



and thought-provoking insights." STERLING NORTH: "Beautifully written, well organized, rich in research, hard hitting."-Washington Post BOSTON HERALD TRAV-

ism has few equals." PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER Bold and original attack on the way our world is being betrayed by the gen-tlemen who talk of peace." WASHINGTON STAR: "No other volume approaches the detailed picture it presents of the world today and the problems that vex

N. Y. HERALD TRIBUNE BOOK REVIEW: "The held fire with which he threatens us has a frightening resemblance to the forses able future."

William B. Ziff William Bernard Ziff is a distinguished military bistorian and authority on international affairs, whose views are highly regarded in official Washington. He is the author of THE COM-ING BATTLE OF GERMANY, an outstanding best seller of 1942.

30,000 copies in print